Culture

Tribal elders discuss concerns



By Jeremy Wade Shockley The Southern Ute Drum

Southern Ute tribal elder Dixie Naranjo called together supervisors from various departments to discuss issues relevant to tribal elders at the Multi-Purpose Facility on Tuesday, Oct. 25.

Among those who spoke was Mel Baker, director of Tribal Housing, who addressed concerns such as wood delivery, gas leaks and snow removal.

"One of the shortfalls is the funding that is available," Baker said, adding that "communication is key."

Edward Box III, cultural coordinator for the Sky Ute Casino Resort, covered tribal member employment and culture concerns.

"I think it's important that tribal members get involved in committees," said tribal elder Evelyn

Also addressing community involvement, Arlene Millich further said "We as elders need to take more responsibility to teach."

Dale White, director of Tribal Services, offered input on social services, covering food distribution, vocational rehabilitation, emergency family services, and elders services, including travel budgets for events.



Southern Ute tribal elders met at the Multi-Purpose Facility on Tuesday, Oct. 25 to discuss issues relevant to the tribe's more seasoned members. They heard from staffers on issues such as housing, health and social services.

Tom Duran, director of the Department of Tribal Member Health Benefits, and Mirielle Begay, health services manager, concluded the informational ses-

Begay said her primary direction is to "improve communitybased health services."

Duran asked attendees what level of health services the tribe wants, a question he said was necessary for discussions about building a new Health Center.



Touring the museum

photos Jeremy Wade Shockley/SU DRUM



Michael Sozan, chief of staff for Mark Udall, and Wanda Cason, regional director, were given a personal tour of the Southern Ute Cultural Center & Museum by Lynn Brittner and Nathan Strong Elk on Wednesday, Oct. 19.



Ute Language

ch<u>ü</u>ki'nap<u>ü</u> - flag kwasigaachog'opü - war bonnet tawakanikapü - War Dance

Editor's note: The Ute Language and translation are transcribed from the 2011 Ute Dictionary, ©1996.

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Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum Wednesdays, 6 – 8 p.m. This an on-going class and will meet for 12-15 weeks.

For more information, call Dr. Stacey Oberly at 970-563-0100 ext. 2306 or Nathan Strong Elk at 970-563-9583 or Dedra White at 307-349-4035

